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South Dakota officials close I-29 from Watertown to North Dakota Border; Travel Alert remains in effect for central and eastern North Dakota

According to South Dakota Department of Public Safety officials, Interstate 29 in South Dakota has been closed from Watertown to the North Dakota border due to blizzard conditions. This segment of I-29 will remain closed until conditions improve and crews are able to resume winter maintenance operations.

Motorists should be advised the Travel Alert remains in effect for central and eastern North Dakota. This Travel Alert includes the cities and surrounding areas of: Bismarck, Jamestown, Valley City, Grand Forks, Fargo and Wahpeton. A **Travel Alert** means motorists can still travel but may encounter areas of challenging winter weather driving conditions on roadways.

All travelers are encouraged to monitor road conditions, reduce traffic speeds as weather conditions occur and use caution while traveling. For road information, call 511 from any type of phone or go to the website: www.dot.nd.gov. If you become stranded in your vehicle, please call 911.

NDDOT releases information to the public about travel conditions throughout the state in three categories:

Travel Alert – Motorists can still travel but may encounter areas of challenging winter weather driving conditions on roadways. Motorists should allow extra time to reach their destination and be alert to conditions that may make travel difficult, change rapidly, or cause travel delays. A Travel Alert has the potential to change to a No Travel Advised if conditions deteriorate.

No Travel Advised – Motorists should not travel due to hazardous conditions which may make it unsafe to travel. Snow plows may be pulled from the roads during severe conditions. Motorists should take No Travel Advised seriously as those motorists who choose to travel at their own risk may become stranded and emergency responders may not be able to reach them safely. A No Travel Advised has the potential to change to a Road Closed or Blocked if conditions deteriorate.

Road Closed or Blocked – Motorists are not allowed to travel on a closed road due to life threatening conditions. The road may be impassible or blocked. Motorists who drive past a road closure device may be fined up to \$250.

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